

Marvin
evidentiary Document # 5074.

24/571-A

IN THE MATTER OF WAR CRIMES AND IN THE MATTER
OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED(AT KANBURI PRISONER OF
WAR CAMP, SIAM,) IN SEPTEMBER 1943 AND IN THE
MATTER OF THE MURDER OF CAPT. HAILEY AND LIEUT.
ARMITAGE.

British National Office Charge No:

United Nations War Crimes Commission Reference:

A F F I D A V I T.

I, No. 3858367 C.Q.M.S. GEOFFREY KNOWLES, Reconnaissance Corps, with permanent address at 3 Ruston Road, Morecambe, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I was taken prisoner in Singapore on 15th February 1942. I stayed there until June 1942 and was then moved to Siam. Later, in March 1943 I was moved to Kanburi prisoner of war camp. Kanburi was the headquarters of No. 1 Group of prisoner of war working camps. The work we were doing was on the Bangkok - Meulmein railway line. No. 1 Group consisted of about seven outlying camps, one of which was called Sakamoto. When I arrived at Kanburi I was put to work in the cook-house there, and all the time I was with No. 1 Group I stayed at Kanburi itself and did not go out to any of the outlying camps.

2. The Japanese and Korean personalities at Kanburi Camp were as follows:

Lt. Comi	Commandant. Other members of his staff were:
Lt. Oda	
Lt. Kanematsu	This man had been educated in America and had been there 35 years; consequently he could speak absolutely fluent English.

The N.C.O.s. were:

Sjt. Ejom	
Sjts. Matanabi	There were two Matanabis; one of them was medical and the other in administration.

The guards were Koreans. The ones involved in those particular atrocities were called:

Kanashira	whose nick-name by us was "The Undertaker"
Yasimto	

There were more guards involved, but I cannot remember their names.

3. In September 1943 the Japanese found a wireless set which had been made by Sergeant Major Thew and a friend of his called Sgt. Smith. This set was found on Sergeant Major Thew's bed at Sukomoto Working Camp. A few days later Thew was sent down to Kanburi and was stood outside the guard room when he arrived. I remember seeing him there.

4. At 11 p.m. the Japanese began beating Sergeant Major Thew. None of us were allowed to see what was going on except the British Commandant, Capt. Renwick of the Sherwood Foresters who was called out specially to witness it. I was on duty in the cook-house about 100 yards away and I heard the whole incident. Sergeant Major Thew was beaten for an hour and a half. The method of beating was to strike him on the small of the back and on the thighs with heavy teak poles. I could hear the thuds of the poles as they struck him. Every now and again there would be a short spell when Thew was interrogated about his wireless set. The Japanese varied the beatings by striking him on the face with wooden clogs. When it was all over Thew was left in a crumpled heap outside the guard room for four days. On the first day he was brought down to the cook-house for some tea which I gave him. At first I did not recognise the man; his whole body was marked with weals, his jaw was crooked as though broken, and his face badly marked as the result of blows with the wooden clogs. His nose appeared to be broken and his legs up to his kidneys were a mass of black bruises. He also had a very bad eye injury which was suppurating. I did not see him after that, as for the rest of the four days rice and tea were brought to him and he stayed outside the guard room out in the open. At the end of the fourth day he was taken to hospital where I saw him again. At that time he was barely conscious and I do not think he knew what he was doing or what was happening. It was discovered in hospital that as well as his other injuries he had a burst ear drum. There is no doubt that all the personalities I have mentioned took part in this beating.

5. The day after Thew was allowed into hospital five British officers were brought down from Sukomoto to Kanburi for a beating. They were:

Major Smith (S.S.V.F.)
Major Slater
Major Knights
Lt. MCKEEY
Lt. LOMAX (Royal Signals)

The day before those five British officers were beaten the whole camp was warned that there was to be a beating that night, but there was to be no demonstration whatsoever; troops would remain in their bed spaces, otherwise a massacre would take place. I noticed that there were machine guns in the guard room, presumably ready for this. At 11 o'clock that night the beating started. All five of those British officers were beaten in much the same way as Sergeant Major Thew. Major Smith was almost killed and Lt. Lomax had both his forearms broken as a result of trying to protect himself. But I did not witness these incidents owing to the camp order; I only heard the screams and the noise of the teak poles on the

victims' bodies. Then that was over the five of them were left outside the guard room for one day; they were then removed to hospital. I saw them in hospital and helped to feed them as none of them were able to feed themselves. Their injuries were terrible.

6. The day after that four more British officers were brought in to Kanburi for beating.) They were;

Capt. Hawley
Capt. Gregg (7th Coastal Bty, R.A.)
Lt. Armitage
Lt. Gilchrist (S-D.F.)

As it turned out, neither Capt. Gregg nor Lt. Gilchrist were beaten, but at 11 o'clock that night Capt. Hawley and Lt. Armitage were murdered. Again, I did not witness the incident, I only heard the noise of the beatings which lasted in each case for about three-quarters of an hour. In each case Dr. Van der Eyden was called out, but before he got to where the beatings were going on he was motioned back by Kanenatsu.

7. The next day two soldiers, Bdr. Rider and Gnr. Cavaney, who were in the workshop about twenty yards behind the Japanese guard room, found a Red Cross issue trilby hat in the swill pit. They also slept in that little hut and told me afterwards that they had heard the Japanese guards drawing shovels from an adjacent tool house. There is no doubt in my mind that Hawley and Armitage were beaten to death and buried nearby,) and there is also no doubt in my mind that the Japanese personalities whom I have mentioned above were all responsible for these beatings as they must all have taken their turn at striking those British officers and Serjeant Major Thew.

8. I would describe Lt. Coni as a man of about 40, height 5 ft. 5 ins., weight about 10 stone, very thick set; round face and flat nose and looked more like a monkey than anything else. Lt. Oda was aged about 27, about 5 ft. 8 or 9 ins. tall, rather slim, weight about 9½ stone; he had monkey-like features, high cheek bones, long jaw and was more slant-eyed than the Japanese, upper teeth prominent. Kanenatsu, owing to his long stay in America, had rather lost his Japanese features; he was whiter than the majority and wore square cut rimless glasses of an American fashion. He was aged about 50, height 5 ft. 9 ins., weight about 11½ stone. He had had varicose vein trouble and he had had the affected veins taken out, so that he did not have actually a limp nor exactly a normal walk; he moved slowly and rather stiffly. He was, properly speaking, a civilian interpreter attached to the Japanese Army with a lieutenant's rank, and he wore on his left breast a blue plaque upon which were five overlapping stars gradually

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decreasing in size. Of the sergeants and Korean guards they were all very much the same in build, about 5 ft. 5, typically built low-class Japanese or Korean coolie types.

SWORN by the said GEOFFREY KNOWLES)
at 6 Spring Gardens in the City)
of Westminster this eighth day of)
November 1945) (Signed) G. KNOWLES.

Before me

(Signed) A.M. BELL-MACDONALD.
Capt.
Legal Staff.

Mil. Dept.
Office of J.A.G.
London.

Certified true copy:

(Signed) R.B. LAMBE, Lt.Colonel.
A.A.G.
War Crimes, HQ ALFSE..

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1.

ジエフレー・ノウルズ

一 モロキヤフ・「コリストン通り」三番地ニ本
居ヲ有スル偵察官三八五八三六七〇・Q・M.
S ジエフレー・ノウルズハ宣誓ノ上左ノ如ク頃
過ス。

二 私ハ一九四二年二月十五日「シンガポール」
ア浮島トナリマシタ。私ハ同年六月越真慶ニ會
リ、ソノ後「シヤム」ニ移サレマシタ。ソレカ
テ一九四三年三月「カンブリ」停泊港容所ニ移
サレマシタ。「カンブリ」ヘ浮島停泊所ノ第一
國ノ本部テアリマシタ。私等ノ仕事ハ「バンコ
ック」モルメン」の邊防線テアリマシタ。第
一國ハ約七ヶ所ノ分所カラ成り、其中ノ一つハ
「サカモト」ト尋ヘラレテ居リマシタ。私ガ「
カンブリ」ヘ到着シマスト、公事場ア勃ク研ト
ナリマシタ。私ガ第一國情テアル國情「カン
ブリ」ニ居リ何ノ分所ニモ行キマセシテシタ。

三 一九四三年九月日本兵ハ一連ノ無線機ヲ見付
ケマシタガ眞レハシユウ首長ト其友人スミス宣
誓ガ達ツタモノテシタ。コノ無線機ハ「サカモ
ト」停泊所ノシユウ首長ノ室にて見サレタノ

テシタ。二、三日シユウハ「カンブリ」ニ送
テレアズテ到着スルト前兵室外ニ立タシレマシ
タ。私ハ彼ヲ真造テ見タノヲ記憶シテキマス。

四 午後十一時日本兵ハシユウ官長ヲ打チ清メマ
シタ。私達ヘ誰モ真造ヲ見ル事ヲ許サレマセ
ンテシタガ、唯一人米軍ノ指揮官シヤリウッド
・フォーレバターズ隊ノレニック大尉ダケ立會
人トシテ傍ニ呼び出サレマシタ。私ハ百ヤード
餘リ離レタ位置ニテ風向中テシタガ全部ノ轟管
ノ火薬ヲ聞キマシタ。シユウ官長ハ一時間半行
タレマシタ。其ノ行テ方ハ東部ト區ア真イチ
ク前ノ岸テ行ツノデシタ。其ノ行ツ音ガバサツ
バサツト前ヘマシタ時々經ヘ聞ガアツタノハシ
ユウガ無意ニ試イテ帆圖サレテキル時テシタ
日本兵ハ今度ハ行テ方ヲシヘテホシノ下弦テ清
ヲ打テマシタ。之方海ツアカラシユウハ前兵室
外ノ方ラクタノ中ニ四日間放置サレマシタ。第
一日自ニ禁ヲモラフ爲ニ彼ハ以斯時ニ逃レテ不
テレ、私方ソレヲ真體シマシタ初メハ誰ダカ判
リマセンテシタ。至る處ヲケテ顎ハ直レタが
ニユガミ頭ハ下弦テ打タレタ跡ガ直クツイテキ
マシタ。尋ハシレタ誠ニ見ヘ即カラ臂門ノ邊マ

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ア紙イ打替ガ海山アリマシタ。又彼ハ目ヲ怪我
シテソレガ危急シテキマシタ。彼ハ其處ヲ見マ
セシテシタガ公ノ三日間ハ半價ト捺ガ良ヘラレ、
彼ハ海兵堂ノ壁天ニ置カレマシタ。西日暮ノ
夕方病院ニ送レラレ、私ハ其處ア居ビ彼ヲ見マ
シタ。其ノ時彼ハソシニ憲國方無ク、自分ガ何
ラシテキルカ、何ガ起ツテキルノカジタトハ
思ヒマセン。彼ガ位ニ登城ラシテキル上ニ又警
鷹方にテアキル事方精良ア見サレマシタ。

シユウガ病院ニ入レラレタ次ノ日正八ノ英皇
侍候ガ打タレル處ニ「サカモト」カラ「カンブ
リ」ニ送行サレテ來マシタ。正八ノ英皇侍候ガ
打タレル前ノ日駕籠行ノ全員ハ英皇侍候ガアル
事ニナツテキルガ併シ全然思セル事ナクヤルノ
ダト云フ母又陰氣ハ壁天ノ間ニ置ツテキル方ガ
良イ、サモナイト壁天ガアルダラウト報告サレ
マシタ。私ハ海兵堂ニ送ラクハソレニ用意サレ
タト恐ハレル體上鏡ガアルノニ氣ガツキマシタ。
其ノ夜十一時ニ召打方始メラレマシタ。正八全
部英皇侍候ハ、シユウ首長ト同ジ様ニ打タレマ
シタ。スミス少佐ハ氣急竜々テロマクス中尉ハ
自分ノ妻ヲ庇ハウトシタノテ前にア折ラレマシ

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タ。シカシ私ハ旅客所ノ命令ノ規定ノ基づテ日本
はスル事ハ出来マセンテシタ。誰叫ビヨトテイ
ク前ノ様ノ音トヲ聞クタケテシタ。コレガスム
ト、五人ノ船員ハ皆兵士外ニ一日ノ間就寝サレ
莫公病院ニ参サレマシタ。私ハ病院ア莫人達ヲ
見マシタガ此人達ハ自らア食事スル事方出来ナ
イノア被ベサセルノヲ手配ヒマシタ。此
人達ノ船員ハ通常タルモノテシタ。

次ノ翌日又ニ四人ノ逃走船員方「カンブリ」
カラ管刑ノ爲ニ逃行サレマシタ。管刑ガ捕ツテ
尾ルト、グレグ大尉モキルクリスト中尉モ訂タ
レマセンドシタガ真夜十一時ニ、ホウリ大尉ト
アリミテジ中尉トが捕サレマシタ。私ハ兵鹽リ
ソノ事許ヲ目にセズ、唯行ツ音ヲ聞キマシタガ
ソレハ各八ノ場合ニ及キ約四十三分間續キマシ
タ。各々ノ場合ニファンデル・アイドン博士ガ
呼ビ出サレマシタガ、彼ガ管刑を行ハレテキル
事處ニ着カナイ前ニ、カホマツ、ガ合國ヲシテ
船ヘシテシマヒマシタ。

三日、日本軍海兵士ノ公口總三十九ドニア
ル在職者ニ計十二人ノ兵隊、ライダ等手トキ

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七

アバノイ視手が清キ清ノ中カラ赤十字船員ノト
リルビイ帽ヲ見シケマシタ。彼等ハ又其小屋ニ
座テ居テ、莫公私ニ彼等ハ日本宣ノ行兵方近ク
ノ造員小屋カラ、シヤベルヲ取リ出ス物音ヲ聞
イタト語リマシタ。私ノ寺ヘテハ、ホウリトア
リミテジガ印カレテ死ンテ近クニ運メラレタノ
ハ此ヒアリマセン。